



• INFO memo - May 7, 2004

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Learn to Swim Registration, Weather Heating Up

Temperatures have inched up into the mid- and high-80s, the school year is in its final weeks and the Memorial Day weekend is three weeks away. It's time to get children registered in the City's Learn to Swim program at Central Park.

The first two-week session in the program begins June 7. There are four classes each week, or a total of eight (Monday through Thursday), for each of the sessions. Cost of the sessions is \$40, and children from 6 months and up are eligible. The City provides Red Cross trained instructors. Classes for the little ones (six months to three years) are "parent assisted," with a parent in the water with the child. Those classes for the younger ones are 30 minutes in duration, with normal classes 40 minutes long.

Classes range from those introduction to water programs up to Level 7 for advanced swimmers (10 and up).

The Family Aquatic Center and the new pool at Country Aire will open Memorial Day weekend (May 29). The old pool at Central Park will be used only for Learn to Swim classes this summer.

Krystal Ridenour is once again supervising the registration for classes. Information is available on the City's web site (www.brokenarrowok.gov), with a link from the home page. Forms, along with payment, must be brought into the Community Center. Registration will continue through the summer, as openings permit. The final sessions start July 19. For more information call 259-8436.

Free Child Safety Gun Locks Handed Out

Broken Arrow's Police Department is handing out free gun locks at Rooster Days and will do so in the future at other citywide events. The gun locks are being donated by "Project Childsafe" to the BAPD.

Each safety kit contains educational material on gun safety and the free gun lock. The kits were purchased through a \$50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, and managed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Great Weather, Rooster Days = Big Crowds

The weather for the start of Rooster Days has been about as good as anyone can remember in recent years. That, combined with some big name entertainment and the usual fun of the carnival and food court, promises to add up to some of the largest crowds ever for the annual Chamber of Commerce event.

For the Broken Arrow Police Department and workers in Public Works, Inspections and the Fire Department, that should lead to a busy weekend. Police officials feel the visible presence of officers (many of them Reserves) around the carnival area and the stage shows helps prevent problems. Very few incidents have been reported in recent years. Crowds have increased dramatically since the Chamber began bringing in big-name entertainers during the weekend.

The Community Center is used for arts and crafts and other programs. The City's mobile Showmobile stage is also a key component for entertainment throughout Rooster Days. David Blue, Special Events Coordinator for the City's Parks & Recreation Department, has long been one of the key planners for Rooster Days, and works as a liaison between the City and the Chamber.

The carnival opened Thursday night, along with the food court. Activities begin again Friday evening, and then all day Saturday and Saturday night. The parade will begin at the corner of Main and College at 10 a.m. and continue down Main to Central Park. Sunday afternoon (Mother's Day) will again be the concluding session, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

There will once again be two stages for entertainment during the event, one on the north side of the Community Center adjacent to the food court and midway, and the other on the west side of the building. The Miss Chick pageant will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday on the smaller stage.

Friday's country western slate of entertainers includes Sonny Burgess at 7 p.m. and Christian Simmons from 8:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday night on the big stage the feature will be gospel music, with Palisade at 6 p.m., Across the Sky at 7, Nate Salice at 8:10 and FFH at 9:30. All shows are free of charge. No alcoholic beverages or pets are permitted during Rooster Days.

BAPD Debuts New Honor Guard Uniforms

Broken Arrow's Police Department's Honor Guard showed off a new look Friday in Oklahoma City at the State of Oklahoma's Police Officer Memorial Day ceremony. It was the start of National Police Week.

This marks the first change for the BAPD Honor Guard uniforms in more than 20 years. "The new uniform visually expresses Broken Arrow Police Department's commitment to pride, honor, integrity, sacrifice and professional excellence," said Capt. Paul Kroutter.

Following the ceremony in OKC, the Honor Guard returned to Broken Arrow and have the local media a chance to see the new look at the Justice Center.

Special Olympics Torch Run Draws Dozen

They began carrying the Special Olympics Torch at Forest Ridge Golf Club. They didn't stop jogging until they had carried that torch about nine miles to Central Park, and they found plenty of company along the way.

Twelve BA Police Department officers participated in the 2004 Torch Run, with seven of them running the entire distance. The Oklahoma Special Olympics has long been special to the BAPD. This year they have helped raise money through the "Cops on Doughnut Shops," the Sonic Car Hop and the Slammer in the Slammer events.

Lisa Smith coordinates these activities. She and Tanya Daur were waiting at Central Park with refreshments for the runners. The refreshments were donated by the BA Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

Those making the entire run were Keith Cook, Mike Shaw, Brandon Berryhill, Greg Sipes, Steve "Crispy" Smith, Heath Arning and Craig Brown.

Making the torch run even more special were the groups of Special Olympians and their family and friends cheering them along the way. Some of them even joined in the run for a short distance.

29 City Employees Form Relay for Life Team

Rory Beel and his wife Jamie head a group of 29 City employees, most of them from the Police Department, who will be on a Relay for Life team during the annual American Cancer Society fundraiser, which will be held June 4 and 5 at South Intermediate High School's track.

Relay for Life will be held from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and will include several teams from businesses and organizations around the community. Funds raised will go to support American Cancer Society research programs.

Teams will have members on the track all night, and those not on the track walking will be playing games, cooking food, eating food, singing, etc.

The City has had teams participate in the event each year. Those on Beel's team include Lisa Smith, Lela Fox, Paul Kroutter, Police Chief Todd Wuestewald, Michael Henderson, Jimmy Glass, Carey Schaefer, Beth Shaw, Tonya Dauer, Tavia Dooley, Lisa Ford, Heath Arning, Greg Sipes, Ian Buchanan, Steven B. Smith, John Walls, Jeff Martin, Barry Pickup, Pat Dufriend, Jim Gunter, Mike Shaw, Marque Baldwin, Kevin Hunsperger and Shawn Presley, all of the BAPD; and Val Roark of Information Systems.

Donations are being accepted to any of those on the team between now and June 3.